

CHAPTER V: CHILD OUTCOMES AND WELL-BEING AMONG FAMILIES STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS

This chapter presents findings on child outcomes and well-being among the families who were still off Food Stamps at the time of the surveys. The following topics are covered:

- background and objectives of the analysis;
- selection of the focal child;
- child outcomes and well-being; and
- respondents' perceptions about the quality of their neighborhood as a place to raise children.

The Appendix to the report presents additional analyses of the child outcome data, using a "child outcomes index."

A. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ANALYSIS

The primary objective of analyzing child outcomes among the families in the two cohorts was to determine whether there was any evidence of negative child outcomes among the families. A major concern of policy makers was whether the experience of leaving the Food Stamp program may have negative impacts upon the children. Such negative impacts may occur, for example, if families do not have enough resources to obtain food or other necessities as a result of leaving the program. These negative outcomes may be particularly likely among families in which the parent(s) do not obtain stable employment at suitable wages after leaving the Food Stamp program.

Ideally, this issue would be addressed through an experimental research design involving comparable treatment and control groups. For example, we might compare families who leave Food Stamps and families who stay on Food Stamps to determine whether child outcomes differ among the two groups. This is not a perfect research design, but it might help to control for some of the effects of normal childhood development.

This type of design, however, was not incorporated into the current study. Instead, the questions on child outcomes were added to the survey using the simple pre-post research design involving the two cohorts of Food Stamp leavers. To assist with the design of the child outcome questions in the context of a quasi-experimental research design, MAXIMUS obtained input from Child Trends, Inc., a recognized authority on studies of child outcomes. Child Trends recommended an approach in which the survey respondents were asked to identify changes in their child's behavior, mood, school performance, and other outcomes "compared to one year ago." This time frame was designed to correspond to the period since leaving Food Stamps. Respondents were asked to identify positive or negative changes.

The approach that was used in the study should be treated with caution because of the limitations of the research design. One concern is that some of the changes reported by

respondents may have been partly the result of normal childhood development. To some extent, this concern is addressed by the fact that we asked the respondents to focus only on the last 12 months. Another point to emphasize is that respondents were asked the questions only for children aged 5-17.

The focus of the analysis, however, is mostly on uncovering any evidence of negative child outcomes that might be associated with the process of leaving Food Stamps. There is no implication of any causal relationship between leaving Food Stamps and either positive or negative child outcomes among the cohorts.

B. SELECTION OF THE FOCAL CHILD

Each respondent was asked a series of questions about the well-being of a “focal child.” The focal child was selected as follows:

- If the respondent had only one school-age child, this child was selected as the focal child.
- If the respondent had more than one school-age child, the focal child was the one with the earliest birthday in the calendar year, regardless of the birth year.
- If the respondent had no school-age children, the respondent’s oldest pre-school child was selected as the focal child, but the respondent in these cases was asked only about the child’s health, not about other indicators of well-being.

C. FINDINGS ON CHILD OUTCOMES

Respondents were asked a series of questions about changes in the child’s well-being in the past year. The sections below present the results from the surveys. For each question, we examine the results by the following variables:

- employment status;
- ethnicity;
- education; and
- age of the child.

NOTE: Statistical tests of significance were conducted on the differences among sub-groups of respondents, focusing only on the question of whether they differed in terms of negative outcomes. For some of the sub-groups, the sub-sample sizes were too small for analysis.

1. GETTING ALONG WITH OTHER CHILDREN

Exhibit V-1 presents data on responses to the question: “Compared to one year ago, would you say that the (focal child) gets along better with other children, gets along worse, or is about the same.” The data indicate that 40.7 percent of Cohort One felt that their child was getting along better with other children, 4.0 percent thought that the child was getting along worse with other children, and 55.3 percent thought that there was no change.

In Cohort Two, 46.7 percent felt that their child was getting along better with other children, 5.6 percent thought that the child was getting along worse with other children, and 47.8 percent thought that there was no change.

The data for Cohort One show that unemployed respondents (7.8 percent) were about three times as likely as employed respondents (2.4 percent) to report that their child got along worse with other children. However, this relationship was reversed in Cohort Two. Whites were somewhat more likely than blacks to think that their child was getting along worse with other children. None of the other variables in the exhibit showed a clear relationship with respondent perceptions.

**EXHIBIT V-1
 COMPARED TO ONE YEAR AGO, WOULD YOU SAY THAT (FOCAL CHILD) GETS ALONG BETTER WITH OTHER CHILDREN, GETS ALONG WORSE, OR IS ABOUT THE SAME?
 (RESPONDENTS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)**

Characteristic	Cohort One					Cohort Two				
	N	Better	Worse	Same	Total	N	Better	Worse	Same	Total
Overall	278	40.7%	4.0%	55.3%	100.0%	243	46.7%	5.6%	47.8%	100.0%
Household type										
1-parent	141	41.6%	3.4%	55.0%	100.0%	119	46.5%	7.2%	46.3%	100.0%
2-parent	137	39.7%	4.8%	55.6%	100.0%	130	47.1%	2.0%	51.0%	100.0%
Employment Status										
Working	208	43.1%	2.4%*	54.5%	100.0%	180	44.2%	6.5%	49.3%	100.0%
Not Working	71	34.9%	7.8%*	57.3%	100.0%	63	53.6%	2.9%	43.5%	100.0%
Ethnicity										
Black	181	43.4%	2.2%	54.4%	100.0%	154	52.4%	3.7%	43.9%	100.0%
White	96	37.5%	6.8%	55.7%	100.0%	89	36.8%	8.8%	54.4%	100.0%
Education										
Did not complete high school	64	34.5%	8.6%	56.9%	100.0%	61	46.5%	6.3%	47.2%	100.0%
Completed high school only	150	47.2%	2.0%	50.8%	100.0%	133	46.7%	5.9%	47.4%	100.0%
Attended college	66	33.3%	3.1%	63.6%	100.0%	49	46.8%	3.7%	49.5%	100.0%
Age of Child										
5-12 years old						172	45.7%	7.3%	47.1%	100.0%
13-17 years old						71	49.0%	1.5%	49.5%	100.0%

* Difference statistically significant at the .05 level

2. CHILD’S BEHAVIOR

Exhibit V-2 presents data on responses to the question: “Compared to one year ago, would you say that (focal child) behaves better, worse, or is about the same?” As indicated, 38.9 percent of Cohort One thought that their child behaved better, 9.1 percent thought that their child behaved worse, and 52.0 percent saw no change. About 40 percent of Cohort Two thought that their child behaved better, 8 percent thought that their child behaved worse, and 52 percent saw no change.

In Cohort One, high school drop-outs were much more likely than other respondents to think that their child was behaving worse. However, this pattern was not evident in Cohort Two.

**EXHIBIT V-2
COMPARED TO ONE YEAR AGO, WOULD YOU SAY THAT (FOCAL CHILD) BEHAVES BETTER, WORSE, OR IS ABOUT THE SAME?
(RESPONDENTS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)**

Characteristic	Cohort One					Cohort Two				
	N	Better	Worse	Same	Total	N	Better	Worse	Same	Total
Overall	278	38.9%	9.1%	52.0%	100.0%	243	40.0%	8.0%	52.0%	100.0%
Household type										
1-parent	141	42.1%	9.7%	48.2%	100.0%	119	42.2%	9.0%	48.8%	100.0%
2-parent	137	35.6%	8.6%	55.8%	100.0%	130	35.3%	5.6%	59.1%	100.0%
Employment Status										
Working	208	42.7%	8.6%	48.7%	100.0%	180	39.8%	9.3%	50.8%	100.0%
Not Working	71	32.7%	11.5%	55.8%	100.0%	63	40.6%	4.0%	55.4%	100.0%
Ethnicity										
Black	181	41.5%	8.6%	49.9%	100.0%	154	40.0%	7.6%	52.4%	100.0%
White	96	37.4%	10.9%	51.7%	100.0%	89	40.0%	8.6%	51.4%	100.0%
Education										
Did not complete high school	64	28.4%	17.7%*	53.9%	100.0%	61	42.1%	6.5%	51.4%	100.0%
Completed high school only	150	48.5%	6.4%*	45.1%	100.0%	133	37.3%	7.5%	55.2%	100.0%
Attended college	66	32.6%	8.0%*	59.4%	100.0%	49	45.0%	11.0%	44.0%	100.0%
Age of Child										
5-12 years old						172	40.6%	9.8%	49.6%	100.0%
13-17 years old						71	38.6%	3.5%	49.5%	100.0%

* Difference between high school drop-outs and all other respondents statistically significant at the .05 level

3. CHILD’S PERSONALITY

Exhibit V-3 presents data on responses to the questions: “Compared to one year ago, would you say that (focal child) is more outgoing, less outgoing, or is about the same?” The data show that 55.7 percent of Cohort One thought that their child was more outgoing, 3.7 percent thought that the child was less outgoing, and 40.6 percent saw no change. About 55 percent of Cohort Two thought that their child was more outgoing, 5.7 percent thought that the child was less outgoing, and 39.2 percent saw no change.

In both cohorts, working respondents were somewhat more likely than non-working respondents to think that their child was more outgoing. Whites were slightly more likely than blacks to think that their child was less outgoing.

**EXHIBIT V-3
COMPARED TO ONE YEAR AGO, WOULD YOU SAY THAT
(FOCAL CHILD) IS MORE OUTGOING, LESS OUTGOING, OR ABOUT
THE SAME? (RESPONDENTS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)**

Characteristic	Cohort One					Cohort Two				
	N	More	Less	Same	Total	N	More	Less	Same	Total
Overall	278	55.7%	3.7%	40.6%	100.0%	243	55.1%	5.7%	39.2%	100.0%
Household type										
1-parent	141	55.4%	4.4%	40.2%	100.0%	119	53.2%	7.8%	39.0%	100.0%
2-parent	137	56.0%	3.1%	41.0%	100.0%	130	59.2%	1.1%	39.6%	100.0%
Employment Status										
Working	208	57.5%	2.7%*	39.8%	100.0%	180	56.8%	5.5%	37.7%	100.0%
Not Working	71	49.8%	7.9%*	42.3%	100.0%	63	50.1%	6.4%	43.5%	100.0%
Ethnicity										
Black	181	55.4%	3.2%	41.4%	100.0%	154	59.8%	3.7%	36.4%	100.0%
White	96	55.9%	5.6%	38.6%	100.0%	89	46.9%	9.2%	43.9%	100.0%
Education										
Did not complete high school	64	51.8%	8.5%	39.6%	100.0%	61	48.9%	4.6%	46.5%	100.0%
Completed high school only	150	56.5%	1.8%	41.8%	100.0%	133	56.2%	7.0%	36.8%	100.0%
Attended college	66	57.3%	4.6%	38.1%	100.0%	49	59.7%	3.7%	36.6%	100.0%
Age of Child										
5-12 years old						172	59.9%	5.4%	34.6%	100.0%
13-17 years old						71	43.3%	6.4%	50.3%	100.0%

* Difference statistically significant at the .05 level

4. PARENT’S REACTION TO CHILD’S BEHAVIOR

Exhibit V-4 presents data on responses to the question: “Compared to one year ago, would you say that your (focal child’s) behavior bothers you more often, less often, or about the same?” As indicated, 13.4 percent of Cohort One said that their child’s behavior bothered them more often, 22.0 percent said it bothered them less often, and 64.6 percent said that there was no change. Of Cohort Two, 13.5 percent said that their child’s behavior bothered them more often, 20.6 percent said it bothered them less often, and 65.9 percent said that there was no change.

In Cohort One, unemployed respondents were more likely than working respondents to see problems, but this pattern was reversed in Cohort Two.

**EXHIBIT V-4
 COMPARED TO ONE YEAR AGO, WOULD YOU SAY THAT
 YOUR CHILD’S BEHAVIOR BOTHERS YOU MORE OFTEN,
 LESS OFTEN, OR ABOUT THE SAME?
 (RESPONDENTS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)**

Characteristic	Cohort One					Cohort Two				
	N	More	Less	Same	Total	N	More	Less	Same	Total
Overall	278	13.4%	22.0%	64.6%	100.0%	243	13.5%	20.6%	65.9%	100.0%
Household type										
1-parent	141	18.4%	21.5%	60.0%	100.0%	119	14.3%	23.0%	62.7%	100.0%
2-parent	137	8.2%	22.6%	69.2%	100.0%	130	11.8%	15.4%	72.8%	100.0%
Employment Status										
Working	208	13.3%*	25.3%	61.4%	100.0%	180	15.9%	22.3%	61.8%	100.0%
Not Working	71	21.3%*	11.7%	67.0%	100.0%	63	6.5%	15.9%	77.5%	100.0%
Ethnicity										
Black	181	14.2%	19.4%	66.4%	100.0%	154	12.9%	22.3%	64.9%	100.0%
White	96	17.9%	26.9%	55.2%	100.0%	89	14.6%	17.8%	67.6%	100.0%
Education										
Did not complete high school	64	25.4%**	11.3%	63.3%	100.0%	61	14.5%	27.6%	57.9%	100.0%
Completed high school only	150	14.5%**	24.4%	61.2%	100.0%	133	9.0%	19.1%	71.9%	100.0%
Attended college	66	7.7%**	26.3%	66.0%	100.0%	49	24.7%	16.1%	59.3%	100.0%
Age of Child										
5-12 years old						172	14.8%	21.1%	64.0%	100.0%
13-17 years old						71	10.2%	19.5%	70.3%	100.0%

* Difference statistically significant at the .05 level ** Difference between high school drop-outs and all other respondents statistically significant at the .05 level.

5. CHANGES IN CHILD’S MOOD

Exhibit V-5 presents data on responses to the question: “Compared to one year ago, would you say that your (focal child) is more happy, less happy, or about the same?” As shown, 49.0 percent of Cohort One said that their child was happier, 7.3 percent said that their child was less happy, and 43.7 percent saw no change. Of Cohort Two, 47.1 percent said that their child was more happy, 5.4 percent said that their child was less happy, and 47.4 percent saw no change.

In Cohort One, working respondents were much more likely than non-working respondents to think that their child was happier. However, this did not hold true for Cohort Two. In Cohort One, high school drop-outs were much more likely to think that their child was less happy. This was not the case with Cohort Two.

**EXHIBIT V-5
 COMPARED TO ONE YEAR AGO, WOULD YOU SAY THAT
 (FOCAL CHILD) IS MORE HAPPY, LESS HAPPY,
 OR ABOUT THE SAME? (RESPONDENTS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)**

Characteristic	Cohort One					Cohort Two				
	N	More	Less	Same	Total	N	More	Less	Same	Total
Overall	278	49.0%	7.3%	43.7%	100.0%	243	47.1%	5.4%	47.4%	100.0%
Household type										
1-parent	141	48.5%	10.2%	41.4%	100.0%	119	49.2%	6.3%	44.5%	100.0%
2-parent	137	49.6%	4.4%	46.0%	100.0%	130	42.6%	3.5%	53.9%	100.0%
Employment Status										
Working	208	53.2%	7.0%	39.8%	100.0%	180	46.4%	6.7%	46.8%	100.0%
Not Working	71	35.8%	12.6%	51.5%	100.0%	63	49.1%	1.6%	49.2%	100.0%
Ethnicity										
Black	181	50.1%	7.7%	42.3%	100.0%	154	46.9%	2.3%	50.8%	100.0%
White	96	45.7%	9.6%	44.7%	100.0%	89	47.6%	10.8%	41.6%	100.0%
Education										
Did not complete high school	64	37.7%	14.1%	48.3%	100.0%	61	43.5%	5.8%	50.7%	100.0%
Completed high school only	150	55.6%	6.5%	37.9%	100.0%	133	48.7%	3.2%	48.1%	100.0%
Attended college	66	44.1%	7.3%	48.6%	100.0%	49	47.5%	10.9%	41.6%	100.0%
Age of Child										
5-12 years old						172	48.2%	6.4%	45.3%	100.0%
13-17 years old						71	44.5%	2.9%	52.6%	100.0%

6. CHANGES IN CHILD’S TEMPERAMENT

Exhibit V-6 presents data on responses to the question: “Compared to one year ago, would you say that your (focal child) is more calm and easy-going, less calm and easy-going, or about the same?” As shown, 34.4 percent of Cohort One thought that their child was more calm and easy-going, 9.0 percent thought their child was less calm and easy-going, and 56.6 percent saw no change. Of Cohort Two, 37.5 percent thought that their child was more calm and easy-going, 12.2 percent thought their child was less calm and easy-going, and 50.3 percent saw no change.

In both cohorts, working respondents were more likely than non-working respondents to think that their child was more calm and easygoing. In both cohorts, more educated respondents were somewhat more likely to think that their child was calmer and more easygoing.

EXHIBIT V-6
COMPARED TO ONE YEAR AGO, WOULD YOU SAY THAT
(FOCAL CHILD) IS MORE CALM AND EASY-GOING, LESS CALM AND
EASY-GOING OR ABOUT THE SAME?
(RESPONDENTS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)

Characteristic	Cohort One					Cohort Two				
	N	More	Less	Same	Total	N	More	Less	Same	Total
Overall	278	34.4%	9.0%	56.6%	100.0%	243	37.5%	12.2%	50.3%	100.0%
Household type										
1-parent	141	33.4%	12.1%	54.5%	100.0%	119	40.5%	13.5%	46.0%	100.0%
2-parent	137	35.4%	5.8%	58.8%	100.0%	130	30.9%	9.2%	59.8%	100.0%
Employment Status										
Working	208	37.1%	9.3%	53.6%	100.0%	180	39.4%	13.9%	46.6%	100.0%
Not Working	71	25.0%	12.9%	62.1%	100.0%	63	31.9%	7.1%	61.0%	100.0%
Ethnicity										
Black	181	36.1%	10.3%	53.6%	100.0%	154	42.4%	13.5%	44.0%	100.0%
White	96	30.9%	10.3%	58.8%	100.0%	89	29.0%	9.8%	61.2%	100.0%
Education										
Did not complete high school	64	30.6%	15.3%	54.2%	100.0%	61	39.0%	12.0%	49.0%	100.0%
Completed high school only	150	34.3%	9.6%	56.2%	100.0%	133	38.2%	13.1%	48.7%	100.0%
Attended college	66	36.8%	6.8%	56.4%	100.0%	49	33.8%	9.7%	56.5%	100.0%
Age of Child										
5-12 years old						172	35.7%	12.9%	51.4%	100.0%
13-17 years old						71	41.8%	10.3%	47.9%	100.0%

7. CHILD’S CONCERN FOR THE FEELINGS OF OTHERS

Exhibit V-7 presents data on responses to the question: “Compared to one year ago, would you say that (focal child) shows more concern for the feelings of others, less concern, or is about the same?” As indicated, 54.7 percent of Cohort One thought that their child showed more concern for the feelings of others, 4.4 percent thought that their child showed less concern, and 40.9 percent saw no change in their child. Of Cohort Two, 58.3 percent thought that their child showed more concern for the feelings of others, 4.7 percent thought that their child showed less concern, and 37.0 percent saw no change in their child.

In both cohorts, one-parent cases were somewhat more likely to think that their child cared less for the feelings of others.

**EXHIBIT V-7
 COMPARED TO ONE YEAR AGO, WOULD YOU SAY THAT
 (FOCAL CHILD) SHOWS MORE CONCERN FOR THE FEELINGS OF
 OTHERS, LESS CONCERN OR ABOUT THE SAME?
 (RESPONDENTS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)**

Characteristic	Cohort One					Cohort Two				
	N	More	Less	Same	Total	N	More	Less	Same	Total
Overall	278	54.7%	4.4%	40.9%	100.0%	243	58.3%	4.7%	37.0%	100.0%
Household type										
1-parent	141	52.7%	6.3%	41.0%	100.0%	119	59.7%	6.5%	33.9%	100.0%
2-parent	137	56.7%	2.5%	40.7%	100.0%	130	55.3%	1.0%	43.7%	100.0%
Employment Status										
Working	208	57.2%	3.8%	38.9%	100.0%	180	58.0%	4.8%	37.2%	100.0%
Not Working	71	44.2%	9.1%	46.7%	100.0%	63	59.2%	4.5%	36.3%	100.0%
Ethnicity										
Black	181	55.4%	4.7%	39.9%	100.0%	154	63.9%	5.2%	30.9%	100.0%
White	96	51.6%	6.1%	42.2%	100.0%	89	48.7%	4.0%	47.4%	100.0%
Education										
Did not complete high school	64	46.9%	10.2%	43.0%	100.0%	61	43.1%	7.5%	49.4%	100.0%
Completed high school only	150	58.3%	2.3%	39.3%	100.0%	133	63.6%	2.9%	33.6%	100.0%
Attended college	66	50.7%	6.8%	42.5%	100.0%	49	63.1%	6.4%	30.5%	100.0%
Age of Child										
5-12 years old						172	60.0%	6.1%	33.9%	100.0%
13-17 years old						71	54.3%	1.5%	44.3%	100.0%

8. CHILD'S SCHOOL SITUATION

Exhibit V-8 presents data on responses to the question: “Would you say that your (focal child) has been doing very well, well, average, below average, or not well at all in school?” As indicated, 43 percent of Cohort One thought that their child was doing well or very well in school, while 11 percent thought that their child was doing below average or not well at all. Of Cohort Two, 42 percent thought that their child was doing well or very well in school, while 13 percent thought that their child was doing below average or not well at all.

In Cohort One, working respondents were much more likely to think that their child was doing well in school. In Cohort Two, employment status of the respondents had less impact. In Cohort One, more educated respondents were much more likely to think that their child was doing well in school. In Cohort Two, education was less clearly related to respondent perceptions about the school situation of the child.

EXHIBIT V-8
WOULD YOU SAY THAT (FOCAL CHILD) HAS BEEN DOING VERY WELL, WELL, AVERAGE, BELOW AVERAGE OR NOT WELL AT ALL IN SCHOOL? (RESPONDENTS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)

Characteristic	Cohort One						Cohort Two					
	N	Very Well	Well	Average	Below Average	Not Well At All	N	Very Well	Well	Average	Below Average	Not Well At All
Overall	278	43.0%	21.7%	24.4%	8.2%	2.8%	243	42.2%	25.4%	19.6%	8.4%	4.4%
Household type												
1-parent	141	42.9%	23.3%	23.2%	7.7%	2.8%	119	37.0%	28.4%	18.9%	10.1%	5.7%
2-parent	137	43.1%	20.0%	25.6%	8.6%	2.7%	130	53.6%	19.0%	21.0%	4.8%	1.5%
Employment Status												
Working	208	49.7%	19.6%	22.7%	6.4%	1.5%	180	43.1%	24.8%	18.6%	9.7%	3.8%
Not Working	71	23.3%	30.2%	27.5%	12.6%	6.4%	63	39.5%	27.3%	22.2%	4.9%	6.1%
Ethnicity												
Black	181	41.3%	24.4%	24.4%	7.4%	2.6%	154	43.3%	27.0%	18.8%	6.5%	4.4%
White	96	46.7%	17.0%	23.6%	9.4%	3.2%	89	40.2%	22.7%	20.9%	11.9%	4.3%
Education												
Did not complete high school	64	28.6%	26.6%	24.1%	14.3%	6.4%	61	40.2%	31.7%	11.7%	8.9%	7.5%
Completed high school only	150	43.2%	23.7%	24.8%	6.8%	1.5%	133	40.4%	24.5%	24.2%	7.8%	3.2%
Attended college	66	56.4%	15.1%	21.7%	4.6%	2.2%	49	49.6%	20.1%	16.9%	9.7%	3.7%
Age of Child												
5-12 years old							172	45.5%	22.1%	18.3%	10.2%	3.9%
13-17 years old							71	34.1%	33.5%	22.7%	4.1%	5.6%

9. CHILD’S SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Exhibit V-9 presents data on responses to the question: “Compared to one year ago, would you say that your (focal child) has been doing better at schoolwork, worse at schoolwork, or about the same?” As indicated, 53.5 percent of Cohort One thought that their child was doing better at schoolwork, 8.7 percent thought their child was doing worse, and 37.8 percent thought the child was doing about the same. Of Cohort Two, 61.9 percent thought that their child was doing better at schoolwork, 12.0 percent thought their child was doing worse, and 26.1 percent thought the child was doing about the same.

In Cohort One, persons who were employed were much more likely to think that their child was doing better. In Cohort Two, the relationship was less clear. In both cohorts, blacks were more likely than whites to think that their child was doing better. In addition, the more educated respondents were more likely to think that their child was doing better.

**EXHIBIT V-9
 COMPARED TO ONE YEAR AGO, WOULD YOU SAY THAT
 (FOCAL CHILD) HAS BEEN DOING BETTER AT SCHOOLWORK,
 WORSE AT SCHOOLWORK OR ABOUT THE SAME?
 (RESPONDENTS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)**

Characteristic	Cohort One					Cohort Two				
	N	Better	Worse	Same	Total	N	Better	Worse	Same	Total
Overall	278	53.5%	8.7%	37.8%	100.0%	243	61.9%	12.0%	26.1%	100.0%
Household type										
1-parent	141	54.0%	10.1%	36.0%	100.0%	119	60.0%	13.8%	26.2%	100.0%
2-parent	137	53.0%	7.3%	39.7%	100.0%	130	66.2%	8.0%	25.8%	100.0%
Employment Status										
Working	208	58.0%	7.1%*	34.9%	100.0%	180	63.5%	13.7%	22.8%	100.0%
Not Working	71	41.3%	15.4%*	43.3%	100.0%	63	57.5%	7.1%	35.4%	100.0%
Ethnicity										
Black	181	57.0%	10.0%	33.0%	100.0%	154	69.4%	9.0%	21.6%	100.0%
White	96	46.9%	8.0%	45.1%	100.0%	89	49.1%	17.2%	33.8%	100.0%
Education										
Did not complete high school	64	37.4%	14.9%*	47.6%	100.0%	61	59.7%	8.6%	31.7%	100.0%
Completed high school only	150	60.0%	6.7%*	33.3%	100.0%	133	59.8%	12.2%	28.1%	100.0%
Attended college	66	55.1%	9.5%	35.4%	100.0%	49	70.6%	15.8%	13.6%	100.0%
Age of Child										
5-12 years old						172	63.6%	13.8%*	22.7%	100.0%
13-17 years old						71	57.9%	7.7%*	34.4%	100.0%

* Difference statistically significant at the .05 level

10. CHILD’S ATTITUDE TOWARD DOING WELL IN SCHOOL

Exhibit V-10 presents data on responses to the question: “Compared to a year ago, would you say that (focal child) cares more about doing well in school, cares less, or is about the same?” As indicated, 61.5 percent of Cohort One thought that their child cared more about doing well in school, 6.6 percent thought their child cared less, and 31.9 percent thought there was no change in their child. Of Cohort Two, 69 percent thought that their child cared more about doing well in school, 9.1 percent thought their child cared less, and 22 percent thought there was no change in their child.

In Cohort Two, respondents in one-parent families were significantly more likely than respondents in two-parent families to report that their child cared less about doing well in school. In both cohorts, there was not a major difference between working respondents and non-working respondents in perceptions about the child’s attitude. In both cohorts, blacks were more likely than whites to think that their child cared more about doing well in school.

EXHIBIT V-10
COMPARED TO ONE YEAR AGO, WOULD YOU SAY THAT
(FOCAL CHILD) CARES MORE ABOUT DOING WELL IN SCHOOL,
CARES LESS OR IS ABOUT THE SAME?
(RESPONDENTS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)

Characteristic	Cohort One					Cohort Two				
	N	More	Less	Same	Total	N	More	Less	Same	Total
Overall	278	61.5%	6.6%	31.9%	100.0%	243	69.0%	9.1%	22.0%	100.0%
Household type										
1-parent	141	62.5%	8.8%	28.7%	100.0%	119	67.6%	11.5%*	20.9%	100.0%
2-parent	137	60.5%	4.4%	35.1%	100.0%	130	72.0%	3.6%*	24.4%	100.0%
Employment Status										
Working	208	64.8%	7.0%	28.1%	100.0%	180	69.4%	8.8%	21.8%	100.0%
Not Working	71	53.3%	8.7%	38.0%	100.0%	63	67.8%	9.7%	22.5%	100.0%
Ethnicity										
Black	181	67.4%	7.0%	25.7%	100.0%	154	75.4%	7.6%	17.0%	100.0%
White	96	52.2%	8.5%	39.3%	100.0%	89	58.0%	11.6%	30.5%	100.0%
Education										
Did not complete high school	64	47.7%	13.0%**	39.3%	100.0%	61	69.0%	8.2%	22.8%	100.0%
Completed high school only	150	68.0%	3.5%**	28.5%	100.0%	133	69.2%	8.5%	22.3%	100.0%
Attended college	66	61.8%	11.1%**	27.2%	100.0%	49	68.4%	11.6%	20.0%	100.0%
Age of Child										
5-12 years old						172	71.4%	9.5%	19.2%	100.0%
13-17 years old						71	63.2%	8.1%	28.7%	100.0%

* Difference statistically significant at the .05 level ** Difference between persons who had completed high school only and all other respondents statistically significant at the .05 level.

11. CHILD’S HEALTH STATUS

Exhibit V-11 presents data on responses to the question: “Would you say that (focal child’s) health in general is excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?” As indicated, 40.5 percent of Cohort One thought that their child’s health was excellent, and another 25.5 percent thought that their child’s health was very good. Of Cohort Two, 35.9 percent thought that their child’s health was excellent, and another 26.8 percent thought that their child’s health was very good. Employment status, ethnicity, and education did not have a consistent impact upon respondent perceptions of their child’s health.

EXHIBIT V-11
WOULD YOU SAY THAT (FOCAL CHILD'S) HEALTH IN GENERAL IS
EXCELLENT, VERY GOOD, GOOD, FAIR OR POOR?
(RESPONDENTS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)

Characteristic	Cohort One						Cohort Two					
	N	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	N	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
Overall	278	40.5%	25.5%	25.5%	7.5%	1.0%	243	35.9%	26.8%	27.7%	9.6%	0.0%
Household type												
1-parent	141	39.4%	26.4%	26.9%	6.0%	1.3%	119	31.2%	28.9%	29.7%	10.2%	0.0%
2-parent	137	41.5%	24.7%	24.2%	8.9%	0.8%	130	45.6%	22.5%	23.6%	8.3%	0.0%
Employment Status												
Working	208	43.1%	26.3%	22.8%	7.1%	0.7%	180	35.3%	24.1%	33.0%	7.6%	0.0%
Not Working	71	31.5%	24.7%	35.3%	6.4%	2.1%	63	37.5%	34.2%	13.5%	14.8%	0.0%
Ethnicity												
Black	181	38.7%	23.9%	29.3%	6.8%	1.4%	154	31.6%	28.3%	31.3%	8.8%	0.0%
White	96	41.1%	30.0%	20.6%	7.5%	0.7%	89	24.5%	24.7%	21.8%	11.1%	0.0%
Education												
Did not complete high school	64	31.2%	23.2%	38.7%	5.5%	1.4%	61	34.6%	20.0%	29.0%	16.5%	0.0%
Completed high school only	150	38.9%	29.1%	25.1%	6.5%	0.4%	133	37.3%	25.6%	27.4%	9.6%	0.0%
Attended college	66	51.3%	20.8%	16.3%	9.2%	2.4%	49	33.3%	38.8%	27.1%	0.8%	0.0%
Age of Child												
5-12 years old							172	35.3%	29.5%	28.7%	6.5%	0.0%
13-17 years old							71	32.6%	27.5%	25.5%	14.5%	0.0%

12. CHANGES IN CHILD'S HEALTH

Exhibit V-12 presents data on responses to the question: “Compared to one year ago, would you say that your (focal child’s) health is better, worse, or about the same?” As shown, 31.4 percent of Cohort One thought that their child’s health was better, and 1.4 percent thought that their child’s health was worse. Of Cohort Two, 45.4 percent thought that their child’s health was better, and 3.5 percent thought that their child’s health was worse. Employment status, ethnicity, and education were not consistently related to respondent perceptions about changes in children’s health.

**EXHIBIT V-12
 COMPARED TO ONE YEAR AGO, WOULD YOU SAY THAT
 (FOCAL CHILD'S) HEALTH IS BETTER, WORSE,
 OR ABOUT THE SAME? (RESPONDENTS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)**

Characteristic	Cohort One					Cohort Two				
	N	Better	Worse	Same	Total	N	Better	Worse	Same	Total
Overall	278	31.4%	1.4%	67.2%	100.0%	243	45.4%	3.5%	51.1%	100.0%
Household type										
1-parent	141	29.6%	1.9%	68.5%	100.0%	119	46.6%	3.8%	49.6%	100.0%
2-parent	137	33.2%	0.9%	66.0%	100.0%	130	42.9%	3.0%	54.2%	100.0%
Employment Status										
Working	208	31.1%	1.0%	67.8%	100.0%	180	46.8%	2.5%	50.8%	100.0%
Not Working	71	29.6%	3.0%	67.4%	100.0%	63	41.7%	6.5%	51.8%	100.0%
Ethnicity										
Black	181	32.5%	2.0%	65.5%	100.0%	154	51.2%	1.5%	47.3%	100.0%
White	96	28.1%	0.8%	71.1%	100.0%	89	35.3%	6.5%	58.2%	100.0%
Education										
Did not complete high school	64	35.3%	2.1%	62.7%	100.0%	61	34.6%	7.3%	58.2%	100.0%
Completed high school only	150	29.6%	1.4%	69.0%	100.0%	133	48.3%	2.5%	49.2%	100.0%
Attended college	66	29.1%	1.4%	69.5%	100.0%	49	50.2%	2.1%	47.7%	100.0%
Age of Child										
5-12 years old						172	47.0%	1.9%	51.1%	100.0%
13-17 years old						71	42.3%	3.9%	53.8%	100.0%

13. REGULAR SOURCE OF MEDICAL CARE FOR THE CHILD

Exhibit V-13 presents data on responses to the question: “Is there a place where (focal child) is usually taken for routine medical care, such as getting check-ups?” As shown, about 91 percent of Cohort One and 95 percent of Cohort Two reported that their child had a regular source of medical care. The respondents’ employment status, ethnicity, or education did not have a major impact on whether the child had a regular source of medical care

EXHIBIT V-13
IS THERE A PLACE WHERE (FOCAL CHILD) IS USUALLY TAKEN
FOR ROUTINE MEDICAL CARE, SUCH AS GETTING CHECK-UPS?
(RESPONDENTS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)

Characteristic	Cohort One				Cohort Two			
	N	Yes	No	Total	N	Yes	No	Total
Overall	278	91.4%	8.6%	100.0%	243	95.1%	4.9%	100.0%
Household type								
1-parent	141	89.7%	10.3%	100.0%	119	93.8%	6.2%	100.0%
2-parent	137	93.0%	7.0%	100.0%	130	97.8%	2.2%	100.0%
Employment Status								
Working	208	91.0%	9.0%	100.0%	180	96.6%	3.4%	100.0%
Not Working	71	90.0%	10.0%	100.0%	63	91.1%	8.9%	100.0%
Ethnicity								
Black	181	89.6%	10.4%	100.0%	154	94.5%	5.5%	100.0%
White	96	93.4%	6.6%	100.0%	89	95.9%	4.1%	100.0%
Education								
Did not complete high school	64	88.2%	11.8%	100.0%	61	93.6%	6.4%	100.0%
Completed high school only	150	94.0%	6.0%	100.0%	133	94.7%	5.3%	100.0%
Attended college	66	85.7%	14.3%	100.0%	49	98.1%	1.9%	100.0%
Age of Child								
5-12 years old					172	95.7%	4.3%	100.0%
13-17 years old					71	90.9%	9.1%	100.0%

D. QUALITY OF NEIGHBORHOOD AS A PLACE TO RAISE CHILDREN

Exhibit V-14 presents data on responses to the question: “How would you rate the safety of your neighborhood as a place to raise children?” As indicated, 37.9 percent of Cohort One rated their neighborhood as very good, while 10.9 percent rated their neighborhood as not too good or very bad. Of Cohort Two, 36.3 percent rated their neighborhood as very good, while 11.9 percent rated their neighborhood as not too good or very bad. Whites were more likely than blacks to rate their neighborhood “very good.”

**EXHIBIT V-14
HOW WOULD YOU RATE YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD
AS A PLACE TO RAISE CHILDREN?
(RESPONDENTS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS)**

Characteristic	N	Very Good	Good	Not too Good	Very Bad	Total	N	Very Good	Good	Not too Good	Very Bad	Total
Overall	278	37.9%	51.1%	10.7%	0.2%	100%	243	36.3%	51.8%	7.6%	4.3%	100%
Household type												
1-parent	141	37%	48.9%	14.1%	0%	100%	119	33.3%	53.8%	8.3%	4.6%	100%
2-parent	137	38.8%	53.2%	7.5%	0.4%	100%	130	42.4%	47.6%	6.2%	3.7%	100%
Employment Status												
Working	208	40%	47.6%	12.2%	0.2%	100%	180	32.2%	55.1%	7.8%	4.8%	100%
Not Working	71	30.8%	57.8%	11.4%	0%	100%	63	47.2%	42.7%	7.2%	3%	100%
Ethnicity												
Black	181	36.2%	48.9%	14.7%	0.2%	100%	154	30.5%	55.8%	9.2%	4.5%	100%
White	96	41.7%	50.7%	7.6%	0%	100%	89	44.1%	46.5%	5.3%	4.2%	100%
Education												
Did not complete high school	64	31.9%	55.8%	12.3%	0%	100%	61	38.7%	49.7%	11.5%	0%	100%
Completed high school only	150	42.3%	47.4%	10%	0.3%	100%	133	30.9%	58.4%	6.4%	4.3%	100%
Attended college	66	31.8%	51.6%	16.6%	0%	100%	49	49%	34.7%	6.4%	9.9%	100%

E. ANALYSIS OF THE FINDINGS

As indicated above, the major goal of the analysis was to determine whether there was any evidence that leaving the Food Stamp Program was associated with negative child outcomes. Overall, less than 10 percent of the respondents in either sample reported that their child’s behavior, temperament, or school performance had worsened in the last year. Many of the respondents reported improvement in child behavior, temperament, and school performance, but this may have been due to normal child development or other factors. For several of the measures, child outcomes were better among employed respondents, blacks, more educated respondents, and two-parent families. However, the impact of these variables was not always consistent across the two cohorts.

In addition, the majority of respondents rated their child’s health as excellent or very good. Almost 41 percent of the Cohort One respondents who were still off Food Stamps rated their child’s health as excellent, and 26 percent rated it very good. For Cohort Two, the percentages were 36 percent and 27 percent. About 8 percent of Cohort One and 10 percent of Cohort Two rated their child’s health as fair or poor. Only 1.4 percent of Cohort One and 3.5 percent of Cohort Two rated their child’s health as being worse than a year ago. About 91

percent of the leavers in both cohorts reported that they had a regular source of medical care for their children.

In summary, the data on child behavior, school performance, and child well-being do not show evidence of any major negative trends in child outcomes among families who had left Food Stamps.